

which, according to present usage of speech, would be from east to west, or, which will strengthen this help to the memory, that in which the sun appears to move. If in any case of electro-decomposition we consider the decomposing body as placed so that the current passing through it shall be in the same direction, and parallel to that supposed to exist in the earth, then the surfaces at which the electricity is passing into and out of the substance would have an invariable reference, and exhibit constantly the same relations of powers. Upon this notion we purpose calling that towards the east the *anode** and that towards the west the *cathode*; ² and whatever changes may take place in our views of the nature of electricity and electrical action, as they must affect the *natural standard* referred to, in the same direction, and to an equal amount with any decomposing substances to which these terms may at any time be applied, there seems no reason to expect that they will lead to confusion, or tend in any way to support false views. The *anode* is therefore that surface at which the electric current, according to our present expression, enters: it is the *negative* extremity of the decomposing body; is where oxygen, chlorine, acids, etc., are evolved; and is against or opposite the *positive* electrode. The *cathode* is that surface at which the current leaves the decomposing body, and is its *positive* extremity; the combustible bodies, metals, alkalies, and bases, are evolved there, and it is in contact with the negative electrode.

400. I shall have occasion in these Researches, also, to class bodies together according to certain relations derived from their electrical actions (557); and wishing to express those relations without at the same time involving the expression of any hypothetical views, I intend using the following names and terms. Many bodies are decomposed directly by the electric current, their elements being set free: these I propose to call *electrolytes*? Water, therefore, is an electrolyte. The bodies which, like nitric or sulphuric acids, are decomposed in a secondary manner (487, 492), are not included under this term. Then for *dectro-chemically decomposed*, I shall often use the term

electrolysed, derived in the same way, and implying that the body spoken of is separated into its components under the influence of electricity: it is analogous in its sense and sound to *analyse*, which is derived in a similar manner. The term

¹ *dvu upwards*, and 656? *a way* ; the way which the sun rises.

² *Kara downwards*, and 656s *a way* ; the way which the sun sets.

³ *ijXtKTopov*, and Atfw, *solvo*. N. ElectrolfJ)^ Vjjff^bt

UttmuiE Of